



# NEWS RELEASE



## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture - Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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### Mid Year Surveys to Assess Drought Impact

OLYMPIA – NASDA enumerators will be contacting local farmers and ranchers during late May and early June to ask them to take part in a nationwide survey of American agriculture.

As a primary source of agricultural information, the June Agricultural Survey is one of the largest and most important conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

The resulting information will be used to make reliable state, regional, and national estimates of crop acreage, grain stocks, and livestock inventories. The Washington Agricultural Statistical Service (WASS) in Olympia is handling the Washington State portion of the survey. Farmers will be contacted in-person or by telephone.

This survey is particularly vital as it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major crops for 2005. It is especially crucial this year with Washington producers facing drought conditions.

Producers themselves rely on the data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Members of Congress and other regulators use the information when evaluating policies and farm programs. Industry analysts, extension agents, farm organizations, and agricultural lenders need the information for a variety of reasons. It is therefore important for farmers to participate in the survey to ensure that local agriculture is accurately portrayed.

"As with all of our surveys, we safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," said Ray Garibay, Director of Washington Agricultural Statistics Service. "Data about individual operations are used only in conjunction with information from other producers and never as an individual report."

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables click on <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/news05.pdf> or call 1-800-435-5883. <mailto:maria.bynum@usda.gov>

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